

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

35 USC 102

The Office rejected claims 1-21 as being anticipated by Enchos (US 2002/0185637). The Applicant respectfully submits that those rejections are inappropriate in view of the differences between the claimed element of a "panel drive assembly" and the belt drive assembly in Enoch's.

In the current invention, panels are used instead of cables or belts because the panels are sufficiently wide to substantially prevent horizontal movement in the plane of the [vertically extending] panels. The effect is such that two panels can cooperate with even a single stabilizer to substantially prevent all but vertical movements. In contrast, the belts of Enchos are insufficiently wide to prevent lateral movement, so that in Enoch's embodiments all of the lateral stabilization is provided by the stabilizers.

To clarify this distinction between panel and belt drives, the independent claims have all been amended to recite in one way or another that the fabric panels provide lateral stabilization. In addition, claims 1, 20, and 21 expressly recite that the panels are in different planes. Enchos contemplates the use of belts instead of panels, and the belts are coplanar. Claim 16 includes a characteristic of a panel, namely something that is sufficiently wide to substantially prevent movement in a horizontal plane.

Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and figures, and specifically in paragraph no. [0030].


35 USC 103

The Office rejected claims 14-16 and 18-20 as being obvious over Enchos, claim 3 over Enchos in view of McCandless (US1435017), claim 5 in view of Mayer (US6305556), and claims 7 and 8 in view of Anderson et al. (US5529274). All of those rejections are obviated by amendment of the corresponding parent claims.

Request For Allowance

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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